

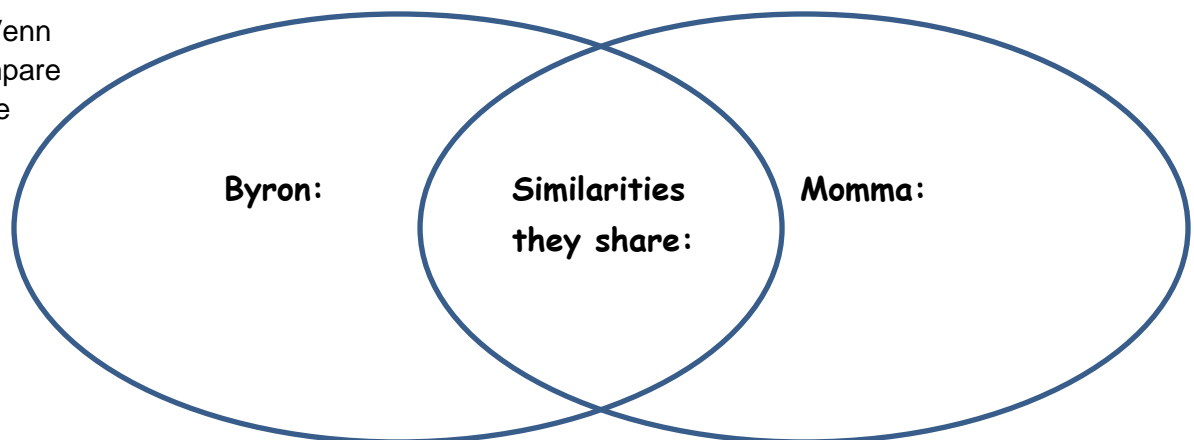
Chapters 4-6

1. Why does Byron tell Kenny and Joey the story about the garbage trucks?
2. Why is Kenny sorry that he told Byron about Larry Dunn's "Maytag washes"?
3. Why do you think Larry Dunn is a bully? Why might Byron think it is necessary to treat him so harshly?
4. How does the author make the reader sympathize with Larry Dunn?
 - a. Was Curtis effective in getting you to feel badly for Larry?
 - b. Why would Curtis choose to do that?
5. How does Joey save her brother from the most severe punishment?
6. Why do you think Mrs. Watson speaks "Southern-style" when she gets angry?
7. If you were Mrs. Watson, how would you punish Byron when he plays with fire?
8. Why didn't Byron want to charge food at Mitchell's grocery store?
9. Why is Byron angry with Momma over the welfare food? Is this fair of him?
10. Why do you think Byron gets sick after he kills the mourning dove?
11. Why does he get angry at Kenny so suddenly?
12. How does the author show that Byron is not as tough as he pretends to be?

Compare and Contrast: "Comparing" means showing how two things are alike, or similar. "Contrasting" means showing how they are different. Comparing and contrasting can lead to a better understanding of things that are being analyzed.

Chapter 5 contains a rather disturbing scene between Momma and Byron. Consider these two intense characters and how they interact with one another.

1. Complete the Venn diagram to compare and contrast the two. Try to list at least 2 details in each section.



Evaluate the Author's Choices Made to Build Character:

Chapter 6 contains profanity used by Byron, particularly when he's speaking to Kenny. The author is using this language to show that Byron is disrespectful and ill-behaved. (Note that Byron's use of these words do not mean that it's "OK" to use them!) Some readers might find this language offensive and off-putting.

2. In your opinion, do you think this was a good choice made by the author, or a bad choice? Explain.

3. Do you think the author could've achieved the same effect without using profanity? Explain.

Literary Device: Simile

A simile is a figure of speech in which a comparison between two unlike objects is stated directly using the words "like" or "as". For example:

We tugged and tugged and the show started coming out an inch at a time. Finally it made that funny sound like after going down the drain and slid out of the boot.

4. What is being compared in this simile?

5. How is the use of the simile more effective than saying, "It took a long time to remove Joey's boot"?

Language Study: Onomatopoeia

Onomatopoeia is the use of a word that imitates the sound of the object to which it refers. Below are examples of onomatopoeia found in Chapters 4-6. Imagine each sound in your head. Then creatively identify objects that might make these sounds.

6. Chomp: _____
7. Glub: _____
8. Glug: _____
9. Hiss: _____
10. Patoo: _____
11. Scrunch: _____
12. Whack: _____